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| **Responses to the Internally Commissioned Review Report: Ethiopian Highlands *Action Updates on specific items where the CSs are mentioned for responsibility and follow-up*** | | |  |
| Nr | Recommendation | Responsible for implementation/  follow-up | Implementation status: 14 Jul 2020 |
| 1. Organizational structure | | | |
| 1.1-C | To increase their use in research synthesis, program leaders should revisit the objectives and guidance for technical reporting. | Chief Scientists – Mateete, Kindu, Fred | CSs started discussing on harmonization of technical reporting. Further discussion will be held to arrive in consensuses. |
| 2. Data Management, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning | | | |
| 2.2-A | AR program leaders should guide and monitor more timely uploading of AR-generated data onto Dataverse | Fred, Mateete and Kindu, with strong input from M&E officers and M&E team | We are following it up to upload as much data as possible before the end of the year. All partners published journal articles are communicated to share meta data and data sets. |
| 2.4-B | Assess the AR program’s progress toward integration of agricultural and socioeconomic domains in the context of similar programs | Mateete, Kindu and Fred, with support from PCT | This needs to be discussed by the CSs and PCT. AR Ethiopia has no economist/s working in the team. |
| 3. Research and Development partnerships | | | |
| 3.1-C | Share the story of the AR integrated research partnership model | Kindu, Mateete, Fred, Irmgard and Jonathan | The draft process paper from AR Ethiopia has been already shared to CSs. The paper is entitled “From Science to Sustainable Intensification: Applying Research for Development Approaches in the Mixed Crop-Livestock Systems of the Ethiopian Highlands” |
| 3.2-C | Reassess the mandate and use cases for farmer typologies | Kindu, Mateete and Fred, with support from Carlo, Francis and Jeroen | This requires discussion among the CSs and others assigned for this task. |
| 3.2-D | Candidly re-assess beneficiary target-setting process and share insights | Carlo and team with Chief Scientists | Discussion among IFPRI colleagues, M&E experts of the three projects and CSc are going on. |
| 3.3-A | Explore linkages between USAID’s Policy and Private Sector Engagement and scaling strategies for AR technologies | Peter and Irmgard, with support from the Chief Scientists | This requires discussion with Peter and Irmgard to identify areas of support from CSs. |
| 3.3-B | Africa RISING should continue to cultivate its interactions with other USAID supported research initiatives | Chief Scientist, Project Managers | There is already collaboration with USIAD supported projects such as GRAD (CARE Ethiopia) in the Tigray region. Additional efforts will be made to explore other USAID supported projects. |
| 4. Research achievements | | | |
| 4.2-A | Use meta-analyses of long-term Africa RISING data (and other data sources) to estimate technology impacts on household food security, income, and nutrition | Project leaders and chief scientists. Some key researchers from the regional projects | This needs to be worked out but requires experts. |
| 4.4-B | Identify, analyze, and communicate technology tradeoffs for specific farm, landscape, and supply chain contexts | Fred, Kindu, Mateete and Jonathan | We drafted a brief proposal for this exercise and shared to some of the team members for feedbacks. |
| 4.4-D | To complement end line studies, undertake targeted research focused on understanding impacts | Carlo, Mateete, Kindu and Fred to keep this in view for 2021 and develop additional case studies that will address this recommendation. | Discussions among IFPRI colleagues, Jim and (RHoMIS expert and we are already started on how to do the end line studies. |
| 4.5-A | Better articulate in AR reporting the actual and potential roles of women | PCT Chair (Boni) to request Gundula and other gender specialists within the program to review this recommendation and develop actions that Africa RISING can take on this.  Kindu and Peter are also in the process of developing specific gender studies for AR Ethiopia and will provide an update on this. | A proposal “Social dynamics and sustainable intensification in Ethiopia” has been developed by Bullock, Renee (ILRI)- Scientist - Gender, Livestock and Environment. The study could not progress because of the COVID-19 pandemics. |
| 4.5-B | Develop an improved inventory and description of women-only research groups and gender-responsive modifications of AR technologies | Same as recommendation 4.5 A | This can be done while conducting the gender specific studies. |
| 4.7-B | Revisit capacity building and backstopping requirements and develop exit strategies for partnerships and target sites | Irmgard and Peter, with support from chief scientists | This will be done when the COVID-19 pandemics allow fieldwork operations. |
| 4.7-C | Document and evaluate different Tech Park models used in AR regional projects | Kindu, Mateete and Fred | This is more applicable to ESA and WA projects. |
| 5. Alignment with donor and country development strategies | | | |
| 5.1-A | Collaborate with Washington DC-based USAID partners to identify entry points in national policy and at USAID country-based Missions for scaling AR-generated knowledge and technologies | Project managers, chief scientists and seek further advice from Jerry. | This needs to be discussed on how to do it. |
| 5.1-B | Continue to nurture collaborations on shared priorities with sub-national units of government | Project leaders and chief scientists. Key researchers from the regional projects. | This is already on-going, but we will strengthen it. |